

PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

OUTOKUMPU OYJ
Intellectual Property Management
P.O. Box 27
FIN-02201 Espoo
FINLANDE

Reçu

Received

05.01.01

OUTOKUMPU

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 28 December 2000 (28.12.00)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference 991389WO		IMPORTANT NOTICE
International application No. PCT/FI00/00480	International filing date (day/month/year) 30 May 2000 (30.05.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 17 June 1999 (17.06.99)
Applicant OUTOKUMPU OYJ et al		

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:
- AU, KP, KR, US**

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

AE, AL, AM, AT, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 28 December 2000 (28.12.00) under No. WO 00/79024

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center;">J. Zahra</p> Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI 00/00480

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER				
IPC7: C25C 7/00, C25C 7/06, E06B 9/15 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)				
IPC7: C25C				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	WO 9911841 A1 (OUTOKUMPU OYJ), 11 March 1999 (11.03.99), claims 1-8, abstract --	1-10		
A	EP 0005007 A1 (RECYCLAMATION LIMITED), 31 October 1979 (31.10.79), abstract --	1-10		
A	DE 4338623 A1 (SPANRUNFT, ADOLF), 18 May 1995 (18.05.95), abstract --	1-10		
A	DE 29615538 U1 (BODE, WOLFGANG), 16 January 1997 (16.01.97), figure 1, claim 1 -- -----	1-10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.				
<table border="0"> <tr> <td> * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td> "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family			
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report		
25 Sept. 2000		02 October 2000		
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Swedish Patent Office Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86		Authorized officer Ulrika Nilsson/MP Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

01/08/00

International application No.

PCT/FI 00/00480

Patent document cited in search report				Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date	
WO	9911841	A1	11/03/99	AU	8980398	A	22/03/99		
				FI	103673	B	00/00/00		
				FI	973565	A	01/03/99		
				ZA	9807298	A	16/02/99		

EP	0005007	A1	31/10/79	DE	2960168	D	00/00/00		

DE	4338623	A1	18/05/95	NONE					

DE	29615538	U1	16/01/97	NONE					

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 991389WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FI00/00480	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 30.05.2000	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 17.06.1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C25C 7/00, C25C 7/06, E06B 9/15		
Applicant Outokumpu Oyj et al		

1.	This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.
3.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 27.12.2000	Date of completion of this report 28.09.2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88	Authorized officer Ulrika Nilsson/ME Telephone No. 08-782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00480

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☒ the international application as originally filed

☐ the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheet/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2 (c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00480

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Claims

1-10

YES

Claims

NO

Inventive step (IS)

Claims

YES

Claims

1-10

NO

Industrial applicability (IA)

Claims

1-10

YES

Claims

NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The claimed invention relates to a separating element for separating the bottom of an electrolytic tank from the rest of the tank space. The aim of the claimed invention is to enable an improvement in the removal of solids from the tank. For this purpose, the separating element possesses the features described in the characterising part of claim 1.

The following documents are cited in the International Search Report:

- D1: WO 99/11841 A1 (Outokumpu Oy)
- D2: EP 0 005 007 A1 (Recyclamation Limited)
- D3: DE 4 338 623 A1 (Spanrunft, Adolf)
- D4: DE 29 615 538 U1 (Bode, Wolfgang)

Document D1 reveals a separating element of the type presented in the preamble of claim 1 (refer to figure 1). Furthermore, D1 also reveals the fact that the separating element is formed of flexibly interconnected structural elements (refer to page 6, line 25-30).

The claimed invention according to claim 1 differs from the separating element in D1 in respect to the fact that the separating element also comprises at least one set of support members arranged in said element.

.../...

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00480

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: V.

The problem, which a person skilled in the art faces, is to prevent excessive bending of the separating element. However, in order to prevent excessive bending, it is generally known to back up elements with supports. It is therefore considered obvious to any person skilled in the art, to apply this known principle to other elements, and, thus, arrange support members in the separating element claimed in the invention.

In claims 2-10, slight constructional variations of the separating element are suggested. These variations come within the scope of practice followed by a person skilled in the art. Consequently, the subject matter of claims 2-10 lacks an inventive step.

D2-D4 are considered to only represent prior art.

In view of the arguments stated above, the claimed invention according to claims 1-10 is novel but is not considered to involve an inventive step. As well, the claimed invention according to claims 1-10 is considered to fulfil the criterion of industrial applicability.